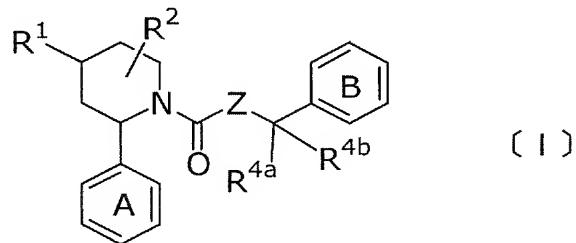


Amendments to the Claims

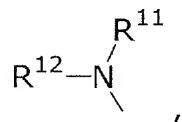
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Piperidine compound represented by the formula [I]:



wherein Ring A and Ring B each represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by halogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro groups a substituent(s), ~~Ring B represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by a substituent(s),~~ R¹ represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted thiol group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted sulfinyl group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group represented by the formula:



R^{11} represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R^{12} represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^2 represents hydrogen atom, Z represents ~~oxygen atom or~~ a group represented by $-N(R^3)-$, R^3 represents a methyl group, R^{4a} represents a methyl group, R^{4b} represents a methyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl group.

Claim 3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a an optionally substituted hydroxyl group.

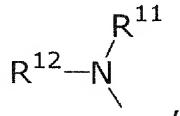
Claim 4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is thiol group substituted by a substituent(s).

Claim 5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a substituted carbonyl group.

Claim 6. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a substituted sulfinyl group.

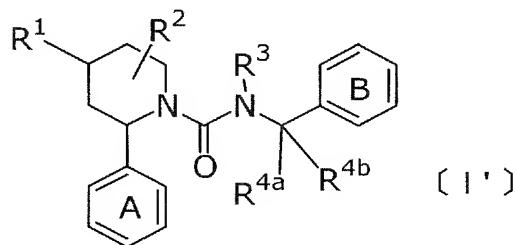
Claim 7. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a substituted sulfonyl group.

Claim 8. (Original) The compound according to
Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a group represented by the formula:

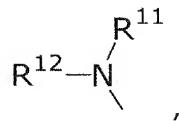


R^{11} represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, and R^{12} represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

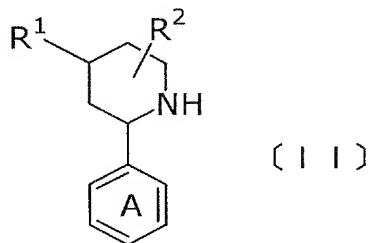
Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a piperidine compound represented by the formula [I']:



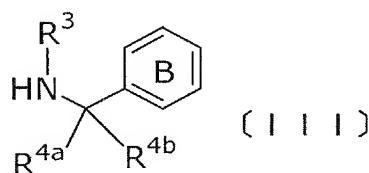
wherein each of Ring A and Ring B represents an a
benzene ring optionally substituted with halogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl
optionally substituted with fluoro groups benzene ring, Ring B
represents an optionally substituted benzene ring, R¹
represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an
optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted thiol
group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted sulfinyl
group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group represented by
the formula:



R^{11} represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R^{12} represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^2 represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom, R^3 represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4a} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4b} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [III]:



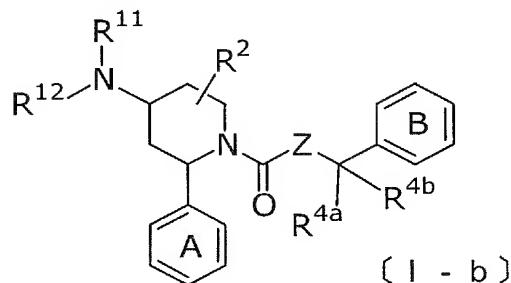
wherein Ring A, R^1 and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above, and a compound represented by the formula [III]:



wherein Ring B, R³, R^{4a} and R^{4b} have the same meanings as defined above,

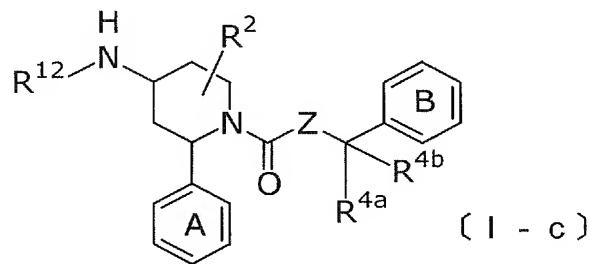
in the presence of a urea bond forming agent, and then optionally, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~if necessary~~.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a piperidine compound represented by the formula [I-b] :



wherein Ring A and Ring B each represents an optionally substituted benzene ring optionally substituted with halogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro groups, Ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring, R¹¹ represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R¹² represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R² represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom, Z

represents oxygen atom or a group represented by $-N(R^3)-$, R^3 represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4a} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4b} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [I-c] :



wherein Ring A, Ring B, R^{12} , R^2 , Z , R^{4a} and R^{4b} have the same meanings as defined above,

and a compound represented by the formula [VI] :



wherein R^{11} has the same meaning as defined above, and X^2 represents an eliminating group,

and then optionally, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, if necessary.